agreement is expected to take several forms including exchange of information, scientific research books, exchange of press reporters and photographers, experts and trainees and publicity material. The bilateral agreement on combating all forms of criminal acts, particularly terrorists, transnational and organised crimes, will among other things, enable both countries to exchange information, experiences and techniques in combating these problems.

Pager Services in Nagpur and Chandigarh

2405. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of pager services which are available in Nagpur and Chandigarh;

(b) what is the number of subscribers in Nagpur as on the Ist December, 1995;

(c) what is the cost per unit of pager service and how much is the market price of the service; and

(d) what steps are being taken to make the services cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Nagpur:—Following companies have been licenced to operate Radio Paging Service in Nagpur:—

(i) Easycall Communication (I) Ltd.

(ii) Weston Pagers Pvt. Ltd.

(iii) Beltron Telecommunications Ltd.

(iv) NICE Ltd.

None of the Paging Operators has yet commenced the service.

Chandigarh:— Following companies have been licensed to operate Radio Paging Service in Chandigarh:—

(i) ABC Communication (I) Ltd.

(ii) Hutchison Max Telecom.

(iii) Modi Telecommunications Ltd.

(iv) Weston Paging Pvt. Ltd.

M/s. Modi Telecommunications Ltd. & M/s Hutchison Max Telecom. have started the service.

(b) No Sir, none of the companies have started the service in Nagpur.

(c) As per the terms of the Licence Agreement, the operator has to install, commission, operate & maintain the Service. The Telecom. Authority has fixed a ceiling trariff of Rs. 150/— per month for the service.

(d) the Telecom. Authority has fixed a ceilling tariff of Rs. 150/—per month for the Service. The licensees can change the subscriber at a lower tariff. Also the Telecom. Authority has licenced a number of operators in a service Area and it is expected that the competition amongst them will bring down the tariff.

Award of Contract to Mazagaon Dock by ONGC

2406. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has awarded or considering to award a Rs. 261 crore contract for platforms to the Public Sector Mazagaon Dock Ltd. on "nomination basis" without international competitive bidding and evaluating tenders;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the material being used in the same as used worldwide; and

(d) if so, whether Government have paid attention towards its cost and whether the pipes are being imported direct from the company or from Australia which have been rejected by the Australian Oil Company.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE